IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, the paragraph starting at line 11:

German reference DE 41 31 829 C2 discloses a liquid-cooled width-adjustable plate mold for the continuous casting of strands of steel in slab format, in particular for a thickness of the slabs below 100 mm. In the plate mold, the form of the broad-face plates at the strand outlet end of the mold corresponds to the strand format to be produced, the broad-face plates being designed as a planar surface in the adjusting region of the narrow-face plates.

the paragraph starting at line 22:

German reference DE 36 27 991 discloses an apparatus for continuously casting flat slabs, in particular a steel slab with a thickness below 80 mm. In this apparatus there is, opposite the larger crowned cross section on the charging side, a cross section on the strand outlet side of the mold which is smaller and identically crowned in the central region, and at least one roller of at least one pair of rollers of the supporting and guiding means following the mold has a caliber adapted to the emerging crowned strand.

Page 7, the paragraph starting at line 17:

The mold has in this case broad faces 21, between which narrow faces 22 are clamped. The broad faces have a central surface 23, which is shaped with a planar surface and

is disposed from the inlet up to the mouth of the mold. The greatest distance between the broad faces is designated D_E in Figure 1.

Page 8, the paragraph starting at line 18:

In the charging region, the side parts have a width f which, following the conical transitional part 26 or 27, widens to the width g and maintains this width constantly up to the mouth of the mold.

the paragraph starting at line 22:

In Figure 2, in the charging region, the central part has a width c which, following the wedge-shaped transitional parts 26, 27, widens to the width b in the strand casting direction up to the length a of the mold and, from there, remains constant up to the mouth of the mold.

Page 9, the paragraph starting at line 2:

In the case of this configuration, the width f of the side parts 24 and 25 remains constant over the entire length L of the mold.

the paragraph starting at line 5:

An immersion nozzle 11, which has a tubular part 12 and a rectangular part 14, protrudes into the mold. The mouth 13 of the said immersion nozzle reaches under the level of the melt Sp (dashed line). The immersion nozzle has a thickness d.

the paragraph starting at line 9:

Figure 3 shows a section AA through the broad faces 21 of the mold.

the paragraph starting at line 11:

Represented in the left-hand part of Figure 3 is the planar-surface central part 23, which at the distance a goes over into a straight region, disposed parallel to the opposite central part.

the paragraph starting at line 15:

In the right-hand part of Figure 3, a first portion of the central part 23 has a planar surface and is disposed parallel to the center axis I. This parallel part is adjoined with a tangential transition by a connecting part 29, which has in section an S-shaped form and in turn goes over into the parallel part of the central part 23 in the direction of the mouth.

Page 10, the paragraph starting at line 3:

B11 The dashed line represents the distance D_S between the side parts 24 and 25, and consequently also the narrow face of the slab.

the paragraph starting at line 10:

312 Represented in the right-hand part of Figure 4 is the side part 24, which has a constant width g.

the paragraph starting at line 12:

313 Represented in the left-hand part of Figure 4 is the side part 25, which has in the inlet region of the mold a width f which, conically following the conical transitional part, has from the wedge tip 28 a width g.

the paragraph starting at line 16:

B14 The central part 23 has with regard to the left-hand side of the figure a constant width b.

the paragraph starting at line 18:

With regard to the right-hand side, the central part 23 has a width c which widens in a way corresponding to the conical transitional part 26 and has from the wedge tip 28 the constant width b.

Page 11, the paragraph starting at line 12:

Figures 5a and 5b show a section through the guiding framework and the slab still having a crater in this region. Represented in Figure 5a is the situation with the opposite pairs of rollers in the central region 43 and in the side regions 44, 45. These rollers support the broad faces 51 of the shell box made up of the broad faces 51 and the narrow faces 52 of the strand shell B. The shell box thereby envelops the melt S, which forms in this region the crater within the slab.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

11. A process for producing a thin slab having broad faces with a predetermined convexity in a continuous casting installation, in which an immersion nozzle protrudes into a mold composed of broad and narrow faces followed by a strand guiding means for guiding the slab which comprises a strand shell surrounding a liquid sump, said process comprising the steps of: